AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A COS treatment apparatus for a gasified gas containing COS, H_2S, H_2O, O_2, and CO, which comprises:

a first reactor into which the gasified gas is to be introduced, ~~the gas having~~ the first reactor being configured to increase an initial concentration of COS in the gas and decrease concentrations of H_2S, CO and O_2 in the gas at a gas temperature of at least 300°C; and

a second reactor located at a downstream side of a gasified gas flow with respect to the first reactor, the second reactor being configured to decrease the increased concentration of COS in the gas passed through the first reactor to a concentration lower than the initial concentration of COS in the gas,

wherein the first reactor comprises an O_2 removal catalyst for accelerating the following reaction:

$$2H_2S + 2CO + O_2 \rightarrow 2COS + 2H_2O,$$

the O_2 removal catalyst consisting of TiO_2 and Cr_2O_3 or consisting of TiO_2 and NiO, and

wherein the second reactor comprises a COS conversion catalyst.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The COS treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said O_2 removal catalyst is located in a higher-temperature region with respect to said COS conversion catalyst.

5. (Currently Amended) A COS treatment method for a gasified gas containing COS, H_2S, H_2O, O_2, and CO, the method comprising:

increasing an initial concentration of COS in the gas and decreasing concentrations of H_2S, CO and O_2 in the gas ~~removing O_2 from the gas~~ by using an O_2 removal catalyst consisting of TiO_2 and Cr_2O_3 or consisting of TiO_2 and NiO at a gas temperature of at least 300°C to accelerate the following reaction:

$$2H_2S + 2CO + O_2 \rightarrow 2COS + 2H_2O; \text{ and}$$

after the ~~removing of O_2 from the gas~~ increasing of the initial concentration of COS in the gas and the decreasing of the concentrations of H_2S, CO and O_2 in the gas, decreasing the increased concentration of COS in the gas to a concentration lower than the initial concentration of COS in the gas by converting COS contained in the gas to H_2S by using a COS conversion catalyst.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The COS treatment method according to claim 5, wherein said ~~removing O_2 from the gas~~ increasing of the initial concentration of COS in the gas and decreasing of the concentrations of H_2S, CO and O_2 in the gas is performed at a higher temperature with respect to said ~~converting COS to H_2S~~ decreasing of the increased concentration of COS in the gas.

9. (Currently Amended) A COS treatment apparatus for a gasified gas containing COS, H_2S, H_2O, O_2, and CO, comprising:

a reactor into which the gasified gas is to be introduced, the reactor being configured to convert COS to H_2S in the presence of O_2, the reactor comprising a TiO_2 catalyst carrying Cr_2O_3 and BaO, wherein the TiO_2 catalyst carrying Cr_2O_3 and BaO is an O_2 removal catalyst for accelerating the following reaction:

$$2H_2S + 2CO + O_2 \rightarrow 2COS + 2H_2O,$$

and wherein the TiO_2 catalyst carrying Cr_2O_3 and BaO is a COS conversion catalyst.

10. (Currently Amended) A COS treatment method for a gasified gas containing COS, H_2S, H_2O, O_2, and CO, the method comprising:

removing O_2 from the gas by using a TiO_2 catalyst carrying Cr_2O_3 and BaO to accelerate the following reaction:

$$2H_2S + 2CO + O_2 \rightarrow 2COS + 2H_2O; \text{ and}$$

simultaneously converting COS to H_2S by using the TiO_2 catalyst carrying Cr_2O_3 and BaO.